

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 18, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 18, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-46 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 2-5, 27-30 and 40-46 stand withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1, 6-26, and 31-39 are rejected. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 6-8, 10-11, 18, 20-21, 23-24, 31, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Woo* (US 6,882,595 B2 (hereinafter, "*Woo*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present application claims priority to application No. 10/266,903 filed October 6, 2002, entitled "Multiple Component Sensor Mechanism," now US 6,888,972 B2 to *Berg et al.* (hereinafter, "*Berg '972*"), which has an earlier filing date than *Woo* (March 20, 2003). With respect to claims 1, 6-7, 10-11, 18, and 20 of the present application, all of the claim elements are taught in *Berg '972*, and therefore, *Woo* does not anticipate these claims.

For support of these claim elements, the Examiner's attention is directed to FIGs. 13A-B of *Berg '972* and the corresponding disclosure in the specification (col. 15 line 24 to col. 16 line 50). For example, *Berg '972* discloses an apparatus (400) for sensing acoustic pressure in a fluidic media comprising a housing (410, 420) enclosing a liquid (col. 15 line 38 and col. 16 lines 8-9); a diaphragm (430) attached to the housing, wherein the diaphragm transmits the acoustic pressures from the fluidic media to the liquid (col. 15 lines 36-40 and 58-61); and an optical sensor positioned within the liquid for sensing the acoustic pressures in the liquid (col. 16 lines 21-23). *Berg '972* also discloses the apparatus (400) further comprising a filler member (450) within the

housing for reducing the volume of the liquid enclosed in the housing (col. 16 lines 32-35); wherein the sensor is affixed to a mandrel (440), the mandrel coupled to the housing (410, 420) by pins (444, 446) (col. 16 lines 26-31); wherein the sensor comprises a coil of optical fiber wound around a mandrel (col. 16 lines 21-23); wherein the housing (410, 420) further comprises at least one sealed feedthrough (462) in the housing for passing an optical fiber to an interior of the housing (col. 16 lines 40-50); wherein a periphery of the diaphragm (430) is welded to the housing (col. 16 lines 1-2); and wherein the diaphragm (430) defines a plurality of corrugations (col. 15 lines 63-65).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 6-7, 10-11, 18, and 20 are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Regarding the remaining claims, Applicants traverse as follows.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Further, the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Woo does not teach that "the mandrel is non-rigidly coupled to the housing" as recited in claims 8 and 21. Rather, Woo teaches that "the hydrophone 10 is supported within the housing 34 preferably by the use of locating pins 48 attached to the end cap 46, which may be similar to clevis pins...The hydrophone 10 is thus sufficiently supported within the housing 34 without making contact thereto except at the location of pin mechanisms...Additionally, the hydrophone 10 may be *affixed* within the housing 34 in other ways" (col. 7 lines 50-65).

Furthermore, Woo does not teach that "the mandrel contains at least one feature for routing an optical fiber" as recited in independent claim 33. Woo is silent regarding

the routing of optical fiber in the hydrophone 10 and only mentions that there is a coil 55 within the hydrophone assembly 20 (col. 8 lines 20-21).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 8, 21, and 33, as well as claims dependent therefrom, are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Woo in view of *Maas et al.* (US 6,549,488 B2 (hereinafter, "*Maas*")). Claims 12-16, 25-26 and 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Woo in view of *Quigley et al.* (US 6,706,348 B2 (hereinafter, "*Quigley*")). Claims 17 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Woo (US 6,882,595 B2). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Woo qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the reference is disqualified so long as the reference and the application were commonly owned at the time the invention was made. Therefore, Applicants undersigned attorney hereby states that the present application and the reference were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same assignee as shown in the attached Statement of Common Ownership. Thus, Woo may not be applied under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

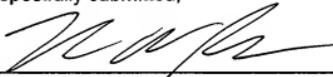
Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 9, 12-16, 17, 19, 22, 25-26, 32, and 34-39 are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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